

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-6, 17, and 19-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 20 are independent.

Applicant has added new Claim 20 to afford a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claim is fully supported in the specification and Drawings, and is believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be confused as to the meaning or scope of the claims. Moreover, the Office Action provides no specific reasons for this rejection, and it is traversed on this ground also. Nevertheless, these claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, and 18 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Amalfitano, Subhasis, and Jurkevich, for the reasons discussed on pages 2-9 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections. The Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 4, 8, 17, and 19 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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